

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A packet receiving unit 5 receives a packet from a communication path 4 and stores the received packet into a jitter absorbing buffer 6. A decoding unit 7 receives a packet from the jitter absorbing buffer 6, and decodes this received packet, and thereafter, transfers the decoded packet to an output unit 8. A packet number judging means 9 counts a total number of packets which are stored in the jitter absorbing buffer 6, and judges as to whether or not this counted packet number exceeds a predetermined threshold value. When the counted packet number exceeds the threshold value, the packet number judging means 9 notifies this fact to a data discarding means 10. In the case that the data discarding means 10 is notified from the packet number judging means 9 by such a notification that the total number of packets stored in the jitter absorbing buffer 6 exceeds the threshold value, the data discarding means 10 discards either a portion or all of the packets stored in the jitter absorbing buffer 6. A packet discarding unit may be selected from a packet unit, or a byte unit.